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United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

December 30, 2005

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Conyers:

Thank you for your letter of September 1, 2005, jointly signed by a number of your House Committee on the Judiciary colleagues, asking the Government Accountability Office to review various issues concerning the treatment of Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) studies and program funding by the National Institute of Justice.

As Ms. Laurie Ekstrand, Director, Homeland Security and Justice team discussed with Mr. Keenan Keller on November 7, 2005, GAO accepts your request, with a modification, as work that is within the scope of its authority. The review will focus on procedural changes in BJS's processes for overseeing, reviewing, and approving grants and research reports that may have resulted in methodological changes in BJS's work. We will not review the appropriateness of personnel actions. Your request has been assigned to our Homeland Security and Justice team and staff will soon be available to begin the engagement.

If you have a question, please contact Ms. Ekstrand at 202-512-2758 or Mr. Ralph Dawn, Assistant Director for Congressional Relations at 202-512-4544.

Sincerely yours,

Gloria L. Jarmon

for

Gloria L. Jarmon
Managing Director for
Congressional Relations

Ref: CCAR 05-1245